

Existing law allows the board to subject an applicant to such examinations as it deems necessary to determine his qualifications. New law retains existing law and provides that in the event a question arises as to the competence of a registrant in a specific technical field, the board, either on the request of the registrant or on its own, shall admit the registrant to an appropriate examination.

Prior law provided that professional engineers would be issued certificates of registration in one or more branches of engineering. New law provides that professional engineers will be issued certificates of registration by the board as a professional engineer. Allows the board to designate a professional engineer as being registered in one or more of the disciplines or branches of engineering approved by the NCEES to signify an area in which the engineer has demonstrated competence through education, experience, and examination. Requires the board to issue licenses by discipline where state or local regulatory bodies require licensure in specific disciplines.

New law revises prior law provisions regarding minimum requirements for registration or certification as follows:

- (1) Requires that a certified engineer intern be either:
 - (a) A graduate of an accredited engineering curriculum of four or more years approved by the board as being of satisfactory standing who has passed the written or electronic examinations required, and who has met the remaining requirements.
 - (b) A graduate of a nonaccredited engineering curriculum of four or more years approved by the board as being of satisfactory standing who has passed the written or electronic examinations required, who has obtained a graduate degree from a university having an accredited undergraduate engineering curriculum in the same discipline, and who has met the remaining requirements.

- (4) Deletes out-of-date provisions with regard to requirements prior to December 31, 1998, and provisions for graduates with eight years of experience who meet the remaining requirements.
- (5) Allows a professional land surveyor to be a certified land surveyor intern or an individual who meets the qualifications of a land surveyor intern who has at least four years or more combined office and field experience in land surveying and who meets the remaining requirements.
- (6) Allows the board to assess the administrative costs as well as the actual costs of the examination to the examinee.
- (7) Specifies that any person who renews his certificate within 120 days of its expiration shall not be deprived of the right of renewal.
- (8) Changes the prior law prohibition that the board could not increase the annual renewal fee by more than \$15 in any three-year period to prohibit the board from increasing the biennial renewal fee by more than \$20 in any two-year period.
- (9) Changes the prior law which allowed the board to impose a fine not to exceed \$5,000 for violations to not to exceed \$5,000 per violation.

Effective August 15, 1999.

(Amends R.S. 37:688(D), 693(A) and (B)(1)-(3) and (4)(a), 695(A), 697, and 698(A)(intro. para.); Adds R.S. 37:695(C))